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HORRIBLE MASSACRE

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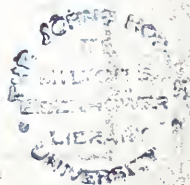
TWO HUNDRED MEN KILLED.

DETAILS OF THE OCCURRENCE.

MEETING OF COLORED MEN IN NEW ORLEANS.

ADDRESS AND SPEECHES.

NEW ORLEANS:
PRINTED AT THE REPUBLICAN OFFICE, 94 CAMP STREET.
1873.



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THE MASSACRE IN GRANT PARISH, LOUISIANA.

MEETING OF COLORED MEN IN NEW ORLEANS.

ADDRESS AND SPEECHES.

Although a limited notice had been given of the proposed meeting, the St. James Chapel was crammed to its uttermost resources, a large portion of the audience being ladies. The recent terrible massacre of a large number of colored men in the parish of Grant, who died while defending the courthouse and aiding the legally constituted officers of the parish in maintaining the public property against an armed mob of outlaws, was the occasion that called the people together.

The meeting was called to order by Hon. James H. Ingraham, who called General Alexander E. Barber to the chair. F. C. Antoine, Esq., and Captain Henry L. Rey were elected secretaries of the meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Harper was called upon to open with prayer the exercises of the evening.

T. Morris Chester, Esq., was then introduced, and spoke as follows:

SPEECH OF T. MORRIS CHESTER.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen—

We have assembled to-night, not to praise our murdered dead, but to do justice to their memories. By a searching and accurate investigation into the circumstances attending the Grant massacre, we propose to reveal this hideous spectacle in all its ghastliness, and, with the light of facts, to enable you to contemplate the assassins in the very attitude of their infamy. As guardians of the public peace and the majesty of the State, our brethren have been savagely slaughtered, after they had surrendered under promise of protection and safety, by men who are daily plighting their

fidelity to our interests and soliciting us to entrust them with the administration of public affairs. On Easter Sunday, when the Christian world was chanting anthems in commemoration of the resurrection of the world's Redeemer, when from every sanctuary the gospel of love and peace was proclaimed, it was then that angels veiled their faces, and devils howled at the bloody and revolting scenes that were enacted on the banks of Red river. When I reflect over this and other unprovoked butcheries I must exclaim, like Jeremiah, in the agony of my soul: "Oh that my head were as waters and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of my people!"

The blood of our brethren is crying from the earth for vengeance, but into the keeping of Him who has said "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," I commit the fate of our murderers. When we think over the bloody massacre in this city—how a colored convention was attacked and the unarmed delegates deliberately shot down without cause or provocation—when we reflect how our blood has crimsoned nearly every parish in the State, and with the full facts of this Grant massacre before us, we solemnly ask how long, oh! Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

As it is not my intention to make a speech, others being present for that purpose, I shall proceed to read the following statement of facts, in the form of an

ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE:

Friends and countrymen—Tragic events recently occurring in this State, in the parish of Grant, sending a thrill of horror throughout the land, demand a comprehensive and impartial statement. Our people have again been barbarously massacred by the spirit of slavery, which is still cherished and fostered in the interest of Democracy, under the assumed designation of Fusion. Through its prevalence and popularity we are denied our constitutional rights all over the commonwealth. By means of its powerful sentiment we are wronged and insulted in person, without redress, and are frequently beaten and bruised without provocation or altercation. Since the rebellion over five thousand persons of color have been barbarously assassinated by the Democracy, in the grati-

fication of its vindictiveness, in the parishes of St. Landry, Bossier, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Washington, Tangipahoa, Jackson, Richland, Franklin, Claiborne, East Baton Rouge, Caddo, De Soto, Vernon, Jefferson, St. Martin, Morehouse, Sabine, Ouachita, St. Bernard, Rapides, Livingston, St. Helena, Natchitoches, Orleans, and Grant. Our history before and since reconstruction has been that of a patient, laboring and hopeful people, silently and seclusively mourning over our fearful adversities and becomingly rejoicing over the triumphs of humanity and justice. In the exemplification of our patriotism, which embraces the whole land—our love of liberty untainted by license—our fidelity to the material interests of those who have so grievously wronged us—our continued and uninterrupted cultivation of the soil, which mercantile and commercial statistics will attest—in the midst of our reflections for oblivion and charity of unparalleled iniquities, and during the very deliberations of our councils, for a political union of all colors, upon an impartial basis in the interest of our beloved commonwealth, our people, in Grant parish, have been treacherously allured to a shocking slaughter by the Democracy, quickened by the spirit of oppression, which is stimulated and ramified by Mr. John McEnery and his seditious adherents. In vindication of truth, and in justice to the memory of those who have been so perfidiously assassinated and slandered, we present the following statement of facts from unimpeachable and ocular witnesses, for the impartial judgment of mankind:

It is well known that in a fair election the parish of Grant is Republican by 300 majority. After the last general election the legal returning board made no returns of election for officers in the parish of Grant. The Fusion officers, claiming to have been elected, took possession of the offices under authority of the Fusion returning board. In January Governor Kellogg, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed a staff of parish officers, among them D. W. Shaw, a white Republican, sheriff of the parish. The parish judge appointed at the same time failing to qualify, Governor Kellogg, in February, appointed R. C. Register, also a white Republican, as parish judge. These officers repaired to the parish seat, the town of Colfax, and during the absence or abandonment of the offices by the Fusion claimants quietly possessed themselves of

them. Rumors of an intention on the part of the pretended officers to capture the offices soon reached the newly installed authorities, and Sheriff Shaw summoned a posse for the protection of his office. That the principal portion of this posse should have been of colored men is understood by the fact that there were vastly more colored than white Republicans residing in Colfax and its vicinity. The usurping officers openly threatened that they intended to take possession of the offices if they had to kill every negro in the parish in doing so.

Evidences of the determined purpose to capture the courthouse, with the parish records, and get possession of the offices at any and all hazards becoming more and more apparent, the guard at and around the courthouse was strengthened and intrenched under the directions of the legal sheriff. The first attempt at violence was made near the end of March, when J. R. Hadnot, a member of the Fusion Legislature, with eighteen armed men, entered the town, leaving one or two squads at the entrances, for the avowed purpose of capturing the courthouse. Finding Sheriff Shaw's party prepared to resist them, they retired. For several days afterward armed bodies of men were seen at the approaches to the town, threatening and intimidating the people around. Persons in sympathy with them, and doubtless aware of their designs, and others apprehending riot and bloodshed, removed from the town, among them a Mr Rutland, who removed his family across the river. And here we pause to correct a falsehood in relation to the alleged disturbance of the remains of his embalmed child. We believe it to be true that during his absence his house was entered by some robber, but in this instance it is more likely that the thief was white than black. It is not true, however, that this was done by any of Sheriff Shaw's posse, and from the most reliable sources we learn that the coffin was not in the least disturbed.

Excitement and apprehension were prevalent, and every indication pointed to the probability of an attack on the courthouse by the Hadnot party at any moment. Early in April four men of this party rode into town, armed, and desired a conference with the parties holding possession of the courthouse and the offices. They were met and conversed with, but the conference was abruptly terminated by the report that some of the invading party had shot and killed

one Jesse McKinney, an unoffending colored man. The next day a number of horsemen, armed, rode into town and were confronted by some of the sheriff's posse, colored and white, also armed. Some firing ensued when the invaders retired. No accidents on either side are reported by anybody. On Sunday, April 6, a large number, estimated at from eighty to one hundred men, mounted and armed, and headed by Hadnot, again approached, and the women and children alarmed at the demoralization rushed into the town (Colfax). The sheriff's posse, which had been increased and strengthened, again confronted these men and a conflict ensued. It is believed that in this engagement, which lasted some time, there were persons killed and wounded on both sides, but no particulars have been made known. The attacking party once more retired and left the legal authorities in possession of the offices.

The condition of affairs had now assumed so important and threatening an aspect, and it having been known that several of the neighboring parishes were contributing men, arms, accoutrements and horses to the assailants, it was deemed advisable to dispatch several of the more prominent men, enlisted in the support of the proper authorities, to New Orleans to lay the serious condition of affairs before Governor Kellogg and appeal to him for immediate and adequate aid for the protection of the officers and the lives of the Republicans of Grant, against the bloodthirsty ferocity of the cruel men who threatened, not only the overthrow of the Republican government in the parish, but the destruction of the lives of the men engaged in supporting and defending it. Accordingly, Hon. William Ward, of the House of Representatives, R. C. Register, the parish judge, E. H. Flowers, and others, were conveyed some distance during the night, and by dint of cautious moving reached New Orleans in safety on Wednesday, April 9.

They lost no time in informing Governor Kellogg and other prominent and interested Republicans of the critical situation of affairs, but whether from the reports industriously and extensively circulated at that juncture, that the Hadnot party had abandoned their intention of persisting in the capture of the offices, or from a belief that things were not so bad as represented, or from the difficulties in the way of sending immediate relief, or from a combination of all these and other circumstances, it is correct to say that

no support was sent to the beleaguered defenders of the Colfax courthouse.

The week passed away, as had the previous one, with feints and attacks and repulses, but with no decisive results, although in fearful and but too just apprehension to the colored people. The attacking force, in the meantime, emboldened by the immunity two weeks of unquelled lawlessness and riot had secured them, added to their numbers by recruiting from the neighboring parishes of Rapides, Winn, Natchitoches, Sabine, Catahoula and Caddo, and prepared for a savage and desperate attack on Sunday, April 13. Their apologists of the press all the time endeavoring to elude vigilance and allay the suspicion of the authorities by the statement that all was quiet and no danger was to be apprehended.

On this memorable Sabbath several hundred men, headed by Hadnot and C. C. Nash, mounted and armed, for the most part with sixteen shooters, and carrying a small piece of artillery, which they had captured from one of the river steamers, entered the town. Two of their company advanced in the direction of the courthouse bearing a white flag on a pole. They were similarly met by two from the courthouse. Mr. C. C. Nash, one of the invading two, demanded of Captain Allen of the courthouse defenders, immediate surrender, or he would give half an hour to get the women and children out of the way, declaring his intention to come into Colfax and have the offices, if he could get them alive, offering, however, to hurt no one if the defenders would lay down their arms and go home. He was reminded that it did not look much like it when they had killed several unoffending colored men at different times during their invasion, and further informed that the defenders did not feel safe in putting down their arms, and proposed to hold out if possible until they heard from Governor Kellogg, to whom they had dispatched special messengers. On the return of Captain Allen to his friends he informed them of his position and declarations, and his course received the approbation of the whole posse, the men all believing that the proposal of their assailants was a ruse to entrap them into disarming, that they might be incapable of retaliating in case of a massacre. And too well were their suspicions justified. About mid-day the attacking party opened fire with their field piece on the rude breastworks thrown up for the protection of the court-

house, and behind which the entire garrison was stationed, with no reply from the courthouse; but, after firing several shots ineffectually, the position was changed so as to enable the attacking party to throw shot inside of the breastworks. Several shots were fired, and one reached the neighborhood of the posse. A rush was then made by them for the courthouse, simultaneously with which a number of armed horsemen gave chase and overtaking the men before more than two-thirds could get into the courthouse opened fire on the fleeing crowd. The remnant of the posse, failing to obtain entrance in time, started down the road, making for a skirt of wood not very far off. They were hotly pursued and overtaken. Several ran into the river where all but two were shot while attempting to swim out of danger, a number rushed into a cypress pond up to their waists in water, and were there shot and killed, and their bodies lay festering and decaying there at last accounts, while those who were overtaken in the road were trampled and shot and killed. From one of the few survivors it is ascertained that about fifty men were murdered in this way.

While this was going on, the bulk of the attacking party concentrated their fire on the courthouse, receiving such responses from the defenders as they could give. The building being of brick, to dislodge the defenders, the wooden roof was fired by one of the assailants, and not a colored man, as none were outside. No hope of further successful resistance appearing, a flag of truce was hung out from the burning building, and the firing ceased on both sides. The outside party approached the building, and told the defenders to come out, when the door was thrown open and they attempted to rush out to escape being roasted alive—many of them being on fire to the waist—but Mr. Nash blockaded their exit until he went in and took out some books and papers, and as he came out the posse rushed from the burning building, with blazing garments on, only to meet a savage and hellish butchery. It is estimated by eye-witnesses of the massacre that at least one hundred and fifty men came out of the building, and it is known that only two escaped. The escaping men were overtaken, mustered in crowds, made to stand around, and, while in every attitude of humiliation and supplication, were shot down and their bodies mangled and hacked to hasten their death or to satiate the hellish malice of their heartless murderers, even

after they were dead, as will be seen from the following statement taken from the New Orleans Times:

"Sunday night, shortly after dark, the boat landed at a wood pile about a mile above Colfax, Grant parish, and a young fellow, armed to the teeth and very much excited, came aboard and requested the captain to land at Colfax and take some wounded white men to Alexandria, about twenty-five miles further down the river.

"On arriving at Colfax we found about a hundred armed men on the bank, and most of the passengers, myself among the number, went ashore to view the 'battle ground,' for our young friend, who came aboard at the wood pile, informed us 'that if we wanted to see dead niggers, here was a chance, for there were a hundred or so scattered over the village and the adjacent fields,' and he kindly offered to guide us to the scene of action.

"Almost as soon as we got to the top of the landing, sure enough, we began to stumble on them, most of them lying on their faces, and, as I could see by the dim light of the lanterns, riddled with bullets.

"One poor wretch, a stalwart looking fellow, had been in the burning courthouse, and as he ran out, with his clothes on fire, had been shot. His clothes to his waist were all burnt off, and he was literally broiled.

"We came upon bodies every few steps, but the sight of this fellow, who was burned, added to the horrible smell of burning human flesh—the remains of those who were shot in the courthouse, which was still on fire—sickened most of us and caused a general cry of 'Let's go back.'

"I counted eighteen of the misguided darkies, and was informed that they were not one-fourth of the number killed; that they were scattered here and there in the fields around the town, besides several in and around the burning courthouse. This, however, was probably an exaggeration.

"To show how terribly incensed the people were against the negroes, I relate the following incidents:

"We came across one negro whose clothes were smoking, and who had probably been in the fire. Some of our party remarked that he was alive. Instantly one of our guides whipped out a six shooter, saying 'I'll finish the black dog.' Of course we remon-

strated, and he put away his weapon. Some one stooped down and turned the negro over. He was stiff and cold.

"A few minutes afterward we came on a big black fellow, who was reclining on his elbow, and, to all appearances, alive. The man with the six-shooter hit him a fierce kick with his boot, and then stooped down and examined him, saying: 'Oh, he's dead as h—l.' It was so; the darkey died that way—in a reclining position.

"When we came back near the landing the boat's crew were carrying aboard the two wounded white men, a Mr. Hadnot and another, whose name I did not learn."

Not content with this destruction of human life, robbery was made to follow on the heels of murder, for while, according to the reports of their own organs, "not a single negro was to be seen for miles around" after the massacre, horses, mules, wagons, furniture, provisions, money, yea, even the clothes and shoes of the murdered men were taken and carried off, and this practice was being pursued for days after the massacre.

Such are the horrible facts which we are prepared to corroborate and verify with unimpeachable testimony. In all the versions of this fearful slaughter which have been published important facts have been suppressed or omitted, and deductions unjust and prejudicial to us have been hastily drawn. The misapprehensions and conclusions of the press, so far as we have observed, that a war of races had been inaugurated in this State exemplify how superficial is its knowledge of the condition of the South in general, and the Colfax butchery in particular. There can be no war of races in this country between the blacks and the whites, but there may occur in the future, as in the past, an indiscriminate carnage of our men, women and children by the spirit of slavery, quickened by the plausible and hypocritical Democracy, who, with their facilities and means, hasten to justify the infamy by falsely designating it as a war of races. When, in the darkest day of our bondage, we endured horrible afflictions and atrocities, with death as our only hope of release, we not only showed humanity how to suffer, but we exemplified that high standard of Christian rectitude—peace on earth and good will to man. Being pacifically, religiously and patiently disposed, we never encouraged force to emancipate us from an ungodly bondage; and it is unreasonable and unnatural to fancy that we

would now abandon our faith in the moral and political agencies which have accomplished wonderful transformations and are still progressing in the march of justice and reform.

We have never arrayed ourselves against our white fellow citizens, unless voting the Republican ticket constitutes that offense. We were loyal to the government and fought for liberty, for which the rebels have never forgiven us, and never will as long as one of the present generation is left to poison the current of public sentiment. It is useless to disguise the fact that they are our vindictive and covert enemies, and would, if not restrained and deterred, in their stupid attachment and devotion for the relic of barbarism, heap up hecatombs of colored bodies.

Our only hope and safety is in the federal government's realizing the situation and acting with that promptitude and vigor which would in the future protect the innocent and deter the guilty. Should we in our fidelity to principles and patriotism—in the exercise of our manhood and citizenship—continue to incur the wrath of our oppressors without invoking from the National Government a corresponding degree of protection, our annihilation is a foregone conclusion, unless we accept such terms as may be dictated.

We are well aware there is scarcely a white citizen of any condition in the State who will not, with apparent frankness acquiesce in the results of the war. They will all pretend to rejoice over the downfall of slavery, and avow themselves in favor of the political rights of colored men; and yet, in palpable violation of the constitution and the laws, these very persons have created and perpetuated a public sentiment which excludes men of color from every public convenience and place in the State. We are denied, on account of our color, in the land of our nativity, civil rights, which, to the shame of American justice, we, as foreigners and black men, may enjoy all over aristocratic Europe, without a single abridgment, in common with humanity. There is a concealed influence and organized resistance against us on the part of these very persons, who so ostensibly and flippantly proclaim their adhesion in favor of equal rights of all men before the law.

Our greatest danger exists in the specious pretenses of our white fellow citizens, and so long as the spirit of slavery is powerful enough to exclude us from our public rights, so long will it break

our heads with impunity. Wherever our civil rights are denied, we are practically outlawed, and at any moment the luxury of slaughtering our unoffending people is likely to be gratified. Public attention may be directed through mischievous and unreliable channels from the cause to the occasion of the massacre, but we are confident that every thinking and discriminate mind will, upon reflection, grasp the facts and conclusions sufficiently to place the responsibility where it justly belongs.

The charge so industriously circulated that the defenders of the courthouse in Grant parish fired on a flag of truce is indignantly and unequivocally denied by survivors with whom we have conversed, and will be proved by their testimony, to be soon formally submitted to the people.

We would have the nation and the world to understand that the colored men who were massacred in Grant parish were in the discharge of an official duty, to which they had been legitimately summoned, as a posse comitatus, to protect from lawless miscreants the courthouse and parish records. In the struggle for office not a single colored man was personally interested, but the actual officials and pretenders were all whites. We only became a party to this unfortunate affair in obedience to summons by the legal sheriff of the parish, commissioned by Governor Kellogg, whose administration we regard as the foundation of genuine progress, the earnest hope of an oppressed people, and which is sustained by the federal authorities. As conservators of the public peace in the performance of a public duty, in the direct interest of white Republicans, our people have been ferociously slaughtered in contempt of national and State authorities; and upon this hideous spectacle, with all of its revolting details, we invoke the dignified and retributive justice of the commonwealth, and the dispassionate judgment of the nation and mankind.

The reading of the address was received with great applause.

President Barber then presented as a gentleman who needed no introduction to this audience, nor to the country—whose voice sounded the alarm in this very building—Governor Pinchback.

SPEECH OF SENATOR PINCHBACK.

The orator, on advancing, was received with the enthusiastic and long continued applause, and read from his manuscript as follows :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The occasion which has brought us together to-night, has cast a deep gloom over the minds and hearts of every lover of humanity in the land.

Two hundred human beings have been ruthlessly and brutally murdered in the parish of Grant by a remorseless set of men, in order to obtain a few parish offices.

Humanity stands horrified and aghast at the enormity of this crime, surpassing, as it does, the massacre of Fort Pillow and the New Orleans atrocities of 1866.

We come, with heads bowed down and our hearts bleeding over the sad loss of our fellow-men, to present our case to the American people and rescue the memory of the murdered dead from the scorn and obloquy sought to be heaped upon them.

In the performance of this melancholy task, I might exclaim in the language of the immortal bard of Avon:

Give me no help in lamentation.
I am not barren to bring forth complaints;
All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,
That I, being governed by the watery moon,
May send forth plenteous tears to drown the world.

We have spared no labor in collecting from the most authentic sources the statement which has just been read of the origin, progress and end of this appalling tragedy.

From it two important facts are established:

First—That the men slaughtered in Grant parish were in the discharge of duties to which they had been summoned as a posse comitatus by the legal sheriff of the parish, and were acting as they supposed under the sanction of law and the protection of government.

Second—That the charge made that the conflict was a war of races is thoroughly refuted by the fact that the officers for whose defense the murdered men rallied are white Republicans.

It is important to set forth these facts that the country may understand the nature of this trouble and the attitude of the colored people; that the country may know that it was a conflict between authorized Republican officers on the one hand, and pretended Fusion officers on the other.

Our enemies, the apologists for and defenders of these outrages, in order to palliate the enormity of the crimes committed by the Fusionists, charge a conflict of race, and the violation of the rules

of civilized warfare on the part of the colored people, in the Grant parish troubles.

From all the facts in the case it is established beyond question that the beleaguered party did not at any time violate the rules of civilized warfare, and I am satisfied that this charge has been made with a full knowledge of the fact that it is untrue, and for the sole purpose of prejudicing the minds of the people of the country against the colored people.

I would not for a moment be found attempting to sustain my people in the commission of a crime, and my knowledge of their temperament and disposition teaches me that they would not be guilty of the wrong alleged, for the obvious reason that they know too well what would be the inevitable result, owing to the immense disparity between the numbers of white and colored people in this country, and when I remember what Christian forbearance they have displayed under all the sufferings through which they have passed, and their magnanimous conduct during the late war toward their former masters, thus practically exemplifying the teachings of Christ, that "when we are smitten by our enemies on the one cheek we should offer to them the other, and when our cloak is taken away that we should not forbid them to take the coat also," I am driven to the conclusion that they would not have committed the offense charged to them.

That this unfortunate difficulty should have occurred is deeply to be lamented, for, in my judgment, it will seriously retard the consummation of that mutual confidence and respect for each other which should exist among the white and colored people, and is so essential to the future welfare and prosperity of our State, and that genuine reconciliation necessary to peace and good order and the establishment of good government.

That a large number of the white people of this State disapprove and condemn the extreme and inhuman conduct of the Fusionists, I sincerely believe, and I earnestly hope that the volume of Louisiana's history shall not be blackened by another such page, as all must see its damaging effects upon every interest of our beloved State, in confidence destroyed, bad blood engendered, labor demoralized, capital driven away, immigration estopped, and, in short, every avenue to the material advancement of the commonwealth endangered.

Confident that the colored people will so demean themselves as to commend them to the peaceful and law abiding citizens of the State and country, I ask in the name of humanity and common justice, that the guilty parties in this bloody business be brought to speedy justice. I appeal to the white people of Louisiana to dispassionately consider the awful consequences which are likely to result from their countenancing, even in the slightest degree, this spirit of violence, as from it one of two results must follow: A frightful exodus of colored people to other localities, in which they would feel secure of their lives and property, or a military government, either of which, it must be conceded by all, would be detrimental to the interests of the State. I appeal to the State government to assert its power and vindicate the majesty of law. I appeal to the American people, press, Congress and the President of the United States to say whether our people shall be murdered in this wholesale manner for their allegiance to the Republican party.

I have endeavored to be calm and dispassionate in the preparation of these remarks, well knowing the awful responsibility that would attach to me if by any word I should stir up strife in this feverish community. I speak more in sorrow than anger, and am desirous of making an appeal to both races in the name of that enlightened christianity which should mark the day in which we live, in common to work to prevent the recurrence of such sad scenes.

I had intended to make the few remarks on this subject that I have reduced to manuscript, and then stop. But I feel that I can not. You all know that whatever remarks I am able to make are better if I do not write them first. But we are now at such a crisis that I thought it would be better if I put what I had to say on paper, for we can not afford to be misrepresented by any of the press that have shown themselves so eager to do so. But one or two remarks may not be inappropriate. We owe our hearty thanks to the Republican party, which has raised us to the position we occupy. We owe our thanks to the government which has sustained us; we owe our thanks to the white Republicans who have stood by us; we owe something to the administration—an expression of our confidence, which it is entitled to receive from us. I have heard complaints coming along the street to-night. I heard expressions from

Republicans of dissatisfaction. Reports have gone forth that we are divided. We hear it said by our enemies that they have only to take advantage of our dissensions to triumph over us. Now, this terrible business in Grant parish has given you a taste of what we are to expect if the opposing party get into power. We owe it to ourselves to have it go forth to the whole country that all the people of the North may understand that we support the government of this State as one man.

We want it to go forth that we support Governor Kellogg. We want the whole people of the North to understand and know that the colored people of Louisiana are not safe in their lives and property except under Republican rule. When it goes forth that we stand in a solid phalanx around this government, and that we appeal to the people, to the press, to Congress and the President, Congress when it assembles will take such action as will give the proper remedy. I have advocated peace and good will to all people of Louisiana. I have endeavored to bring the white and black together. I feel that there can be no peace in Louisiana until all the people are reconciled to each other. I believe this can be best and soonest secured by supporting the present government of Louisiana.

I believe this measure of an attack upon the regular constituted authorities of Grant parish was a preconcerted stratagem of McEnery and his seditious followers. I believe they hope for a new election, and they devised this means that they might strike such terror into the hearts of the colored people that they would not dare to come forth and vote.

I will tell our opponents that they never can get possession of this government so long as they show such a spirit as they have shown in Grant. When I went out in the last campaign they told me they would beat us. They said "we have got the registration, we have got control, we have got Warmoth." "Yes," I said, "you have got Warmoth—but he will be beat." [Laughter.] "Why, how can he be beat?" "I don't know," I said, "but I have an abiding faith in a merciful overruling Providence, that will not permit such a calamity as his victory," and he was beaten, I don't know how, and they will stay beaten until they learn some sense. A large number of white people feel just as sad as we do, but un-

fortunately for them they dare not come out and express their opinion. They are ground down in a slavery worse than ours was. They are slaves to a mistaken public opinion. They are where we were before the war, and I believe we will now have to go to work and emancipate them. They make the disgraceful admission that five thousand carpet-baggers rule the State; that these five thousand control the sixty-five thousand colored, and through them, the seventy thousand white voters! Now isn't that worse than any slavery we ever endured? Now, why is this? It is simply because they haven't got any sense. Why don't they come out like men and say, come with us we will do right by you; take one-half the offices and the protection and rights you are entitled to. It might be done. Just think how close we were together last fall; how near we came to working in unison. But we are not to be brought together by such outrages as this of Grant parish. Just as I think I have got my people and the white people together, then they do something that opens anew the bloody chasm and drives them wide apart.

We have met here to-night to mourn over our fallen kindred in that christian spirit which we have always manifested, and we must conduct this meeting with that dignity and forbearance which should characterize a meeting of so great importance.

The president then came forward, and said that in accordance with the wish of those who had called the meeting, it was his pleasure to introduce as the next speaker one whose fidelity to Republicanism was appreciated not only by those present but by the people of the whole State. General Barber said he had had excellent opportunities of witnessing the ability with which the gentleman to whom he referred had discharged his duty; and so true had he been to the trusts reposed in him that the citizens of his native State had evinced their confidence in his integrity and worth by bestowing upon him at the last election the second great civil offices of this Commonwealth.

It was with pleasure he presented to his fellow-citizens the honorable Caesar C. Antoine, the Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana.

SPEECH OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ANTOINE.

After the applause that greeted his appearance had subsided, Governor Antoine said:

"I thank you most heartily for your cordial reception, but am not

so vain as to presume that it is owing to anything I may have done. This is a representative meeting called to express the sentiments of a race on a dread event, and as all classes are here to-night, I recognize in your kindly greeting of myself a tribute to the numerous class to which I belong, and consequently the reiterated proof of the esteem in which you hold the great doctrine of universal representation that underlies our system of government. (Applause.) I am here this evening to add the small weight of my influence to the force of the protest that receives importance from your presence—the indignant protest of American freemen against the murder of citizens, murder committed not merely in the defiance of law, but in utter disregard of those laws of war that are recognized by the civilized world, and even by barbarians; and it is to be regretted that America has produced the only recent exceptions to this otherwise universal rule—upon the one hand the semi-civilized ~~Modoc~~ Indians, and upon the other a portion of the educated, chivalric Fusionists of central Louisiana. (Loud applause.) It is almost unnecessary for me to assure you of the cordial endorsement I give to the tone of the very able address that has been read to you.

The eloquent language in which it is couched receives an irresistible force from the fact that it expresses “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” (Applause.) Never in my brief career have I so lamented my own lack of eloquence as to-night, that before you all I might record in fitting words my horror of the fiendish outrage that we are here to deplore. But that regret of inability on my part is assuaged by the delight with which I have participated in the pleasure we have all derived from the statesman-like address of the distinguished gentleman whom it is my honor to follow. Governor Pinchback, in every capacity in which he has been tried, has proved his worthiness to fill his trusts (cheers), and the patriotic and sensible words with which he honored himself, and favored us by uttering to-night, have only been another of the many proofs he has shown of his qualifications to discharge with eminent and characteristic ability the senatorial station to which he has been chosen by your representatives. (Loud applause.) Truly did Senator Pinchback declare that it behooved all of us to give our warmest support to the present administration of the National Government, and if before the thirteenth of April, 1873, their were

any "doubting Thomases" in our ranks, I am sure that the events that have recently transpired must convince all of the wonderful foresight that our illustrious President (loud cheers) evinced in supporting the only government that will protect all classes of its people. (Loud cheers.) It was hatred of the United States Government that caused the attack upon those men at Colfax, who had been summoned in obedience to law to guard the records of Grant parish.

The Federal authority had recognized but one State authority in Louisiana; that authority had commissioned white, and only white officials, and it was in obedience to the lawful mandate of these white officials, and to prevent them from being forcibly dispossessed that the gallant citizens of Grant rallied in their defense. They were protecting those whose only claim to it was in that they represented the order of affairs recognized by the Federal government; and therefore was it, my friends, that they were attacked. (Applause). These brave men, after having been attacked by a force double them in numbers and infinitely better equipped, were then butchered; and they were butchered because of the hatred that their assailants bear to the colored race; a hatred that was evinced at Fort Pillow, that was reiterated at the Mechanics' Institute in this city in 1866, and that is indelibly confirmed in the letters of blood with which those miscreants have sullied the historic page in the recital of the brutal slaughter at Colfax. (Applause). Long before this assault was made, the legal posse that had been summoned sought to effect a compromise and it was contemptuously rejected. The same conciliatory spirit caused members of the present State administration to have entertained such propositions of compromise as would bring peace to the State. I myself was one of those who thus endeavored to bring about an honorable compromise, but it was impossible because it could not be effected without the surrender of our manhood. The men with whom we treated wanted all or nothing; and a like spirit of intolerance—filled with whisky and armed with guns—disgraced themselves and our national fame at Colfax on Easter Sunday last. (Loud applause). Never more can there be for one moment entertained the idea of a compromise between the colored men of Louisiana and those who not merely attempt the defense of the murderers of our race, but who insult us

and degrade themselves by lauding the valor of marksmen whose aim was true because their nerves are steady when combatting defenseless foes (applause)—all of whom were without ammunition—all of whom had surrendered, and many of whom were clad in burning garments. (Vociferous applause.) This is not alone a meeting of indignation, or I should attempt the expression of the abhorrence in which I hold the cowardice, the inhumanity that once more has selected our soil as the theatre of its exploits. (Applause). But it is fit and proper that we should leave undone no effort that will bring to justice the perpetrators of this massacre. Aye! not merely the perpetrators, but those who instigated them to commit this fearful deed. Confident am I that the great and good man who is at the head of this nation will in the future as in the past aid us in redressing the wrong done to outraged justice (applause), but separate and apart from the national government, let us, as citizens of Louisiana, give to the statesman who is our Governor that cordial support that he must have in order to vigorously prosecute these wrong-doers. Be it our duty to give him our hearty coöperation as citizens, as Americans, as humanitarians, that this greivous stain upon the escutcheon of our State may be erased, and that all men may hereafter regard Louisiana as a State wherein justice, union and confidence prevail; and where peace prevails. (Loud and continued cheers.)

Senator Ingraham then moved the adoption of the address.

President Barber called on all those in favor of the address to rise and all arose, and the address was adopted unanimously,

Senator Burch moved that 10,000 copies of the address be printed for distribution. Carried unanimously.

William G. Brown, Esq., then moved that the thanks of the meeting be tendered to Governor Pinchback, Governor Antione and T. Morris Chester, Esq., for their patriotic and eloquent addresses, which was carried.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the meeting then adjourned.

REPORT OF T. W. DEKEYNE,
Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION LOUISIANA STATE NATIONAL GUARD,
New Orleans, April 17, 1873.

General—In obedience to Special Order No. 22, current series, Adjutant General's office, the undersigned officers left New Orleans on Saturday, April twelfth, instant, to proceed to Colfax, Grant parish.

We reached Pineville, opposite Alexandria, at about 9:30 A. M., on Monday, the fourteenth instant, where we were informed that a severe action had taken place at Colfax the day before (Sunday); that from one hundred and fifty to two hundred colored men had been killed; that two white men, named Hadnot and Harris, were wounded, the former mortally, and that Colfax, or part of it, had been burned.

Upon crossing the river to Alexandria, we became cognizant of the existence of a violent, though suppressed popular excitement. Numbers of men from the parish of Rapides had participated in the struggle, and were now returning to Alexandria. Parish officials expressed themselves as apprehensive of an outbreak in Alexandria, directed against the colored men and the officials holding office under the administration of Governor Kellogg. We were urged to procure the presence of troops as speedily as possible. Attempts had been made to induce Mr. DeLacy, the sheriff of Rapides, to go to Grant parish, and failing, the person claiming to have been elected sheriff on the Fusion ticket accompanied the party that went from Alexandria.

We left Alexandria at about 11:30 A. M. During our stay there mounted men were constantly crossing the river, coming from the direction of Colfax, and just as we left a party of twenty, mounted, and armed apparently with shotguns, crossed the river in a body.

Believing that Colfax was destroyed, and as we could not reach there before dark, on our arrival at Cotile we deemed it expedient to remain there for the night. Everything in this vicinity appeared perfectly quiet and peaceful.

Having secured an ambulance, we crossed the river into Grant

parish early on the morning of Tuesday, the fifteenth instant, and started to Colfax, distant about fifteen miles. We found the parish in a most deplorable state. The crops are being neglected, many of the residents, both white and colored, have left their homes, and a general sense of insecurity prevails, which we are satisfied can only be removed by the presence of troops.

About one-third of a mile below the courthouse we came upon a party of colored men and women carrying away a wounded colored man upon a sled. At a little distance in the field were the dead bodies of two colored men, about 200 yards nearer the courthouse were three dead bodies of colored men, and from that point to the courthouse and its vicinity the ground was thickly strewn with dead. We were unable to find the body of a single white man, or to ascertain the loss of the whites. Colored women assert that two wagon loads of whites, dead and wounded, were carried away, but it is persistently denied by any of the whites claiming to have knowledge of the actual loss, they asserting that but one man on their side was killed, and Hadnot and Harris were wounded. We may state here that Hadnot has since died in Alexandria.

We send herewith a plan of the courthouse and its defenses. A space of about two hundred yards square was inclosed in a slight earthwork, with ditch inside. This ditch was from ten to eighteen inches in depth, and the breastwork in front of it from twenty to thirty inches in height, and was protected in front by two and a half inch planking. On the lower side of the courthouse the greater portion of the breastwork was composed of planking alone, laid in zig-zags and without ditch.

From what information we could get, we believe that the fight commenced on Sunday, the thirteenth instant, between 10 and 11 o'clock, A. M., and continued until nearly dark. Of the numbers engaged on either side it is impossible for us to form any definite idea, though we are satisfied that the parties holding the courthouse were less in number than their assailants. It is asserted by the colored people that the assailants consisted of parties from the parishes of Winn, Rapides, Natchitoches, Catahoula and Caddo, in addition to those from Grant, but they were either unable or unwilling to give us the names of any parties participating in the attack. This information, however, will doubtless be obtained hereafter.

All statements that we have heard agree substantially in the main particulars. It is agreed that the attacking party was commanded by C. C. Nash, and the assailed by a man named Lev. Allen; that a surrender was demanded and refused; that the besieged were given thirty minutes to remove their women and children, and that at the expiration of that time the fight was commenced by the assailant party. Appended hereto, and marked A, is the statement of a meeting between Columbus C. Nash and Colonel DeKlyne.

The attacking party had in their possession a small cannon, taken from the steamboat John T. Moore, from which they fired bolts, a sample of which we deposit in your office. The besieged had rigged up a couple of guns by fastening lengths of gas pipe on rafter timbers, blocking up one end with a pine plug and drilling a touch-hole. One of these was bursted while trying it, some days before the fight, and the other has not the appearance of having been used.

Some time during the afternoon the besieged were drawn from the field and from their breastworks into the courthouse. One end of this building was without windows, nor had the besieged prepared loopholes. A colored man named Isaiah Atkins informed us that Mr. Nash had forced a colored man called Pink to come to this end of the building and hold a pine torch to the edge of the roof until it caught fire. It is our opinion that few of the colored men had been killed up to this time, but that when forced by the fire to leave the courthouse, they were shot down without mercy. The position and condition of many of the bodies go far to prove this. Under the warehouse, between the courthouse and the river, were the dead bodies of six colored men who had evidently crept under for concealment, and were there shot like dogs. Many were shot in the back of the head and neck; one man still lay with his hands clasped in supplication; the face of another was completely flattened by blows from a gun, the broken stock of a double-barreled shotgun being on the ground near him; another had been cut across the stomach with a knife after being shot; and almost all had from three to a dozen wounds. Many of them had their brains literally blown out. It is asserted by the colored people that after the fight thirty-four prisoners, who were taken before the burning of the courthouse, were taken to the river bank, two by two, executed and

hurled into the river. We caused to be buried in the ditch near the ruins of the courthouse the remains of fifty-four colored men, three of whom were so badly burned as to be unrecognizable. There were inside the courthouse the charred bones of one other, and five bodies we gave to their friends for interment elsewhere. We saw also twelve wounded colored men, two of whom will certainly die, and others of whom are very unlikely to recover.

We are informed that since the fight parties of armed men have been scouring the country surrounding Colfax, taking mules and other property of the colored people.

Since writing the above report we have seen on board the steamboat the colored man Lev. Allen, who commanded the party holding the courthouse. He assures us that not a single colored man was killed or wounded until after their surrender, and that then they were shot down without mercy. We will obtain his sworn statement hereafter.

On our return to Alexandria, yesterday, we were again implored by citizens to have troops sent there at once as the only means of averting a disturbance.

Very respectfully,

T. W. DEKLYNE,

Colonel, Assistant Adjutant General.

WILLIAM WRIGHT,

Colonel, Assistant Inspector General.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. NASH.

Shortly after our arrival at Colfax, on the morning of the fifteenth, a message was brought to me that Mr. C. C. Nash desired to see me, and that he would meet me out beyond the town. I accordingly went out to see him, and met him in the open field about half a mile above Colfax. Several gentlemen belonging to the parishes of Rapides and Grant were present at the time.

On meeting Mr. Nash I informed him of the purpose for which Colonel Wright and myself had come there. I then told him that I had been told by a colored man, named John Miles, that on the morning of Sunday he (Nash) had sent in a flag of truce, and that Miles had gone out to meet it; that Nash said, "Go tell Lev. Allen

to come out here;" that Allen came in company with Miles, and that the following conversation took place:

Nash—What do you depend upon doing in there?

Allen—We are doing nothing more than we were before; standing still, as we've been standing.

Nash—We want that courthouse.

Allen—We sent an answer to Mr. Hadnot by Mr. Calhoun. Didn't you receive it?

Nash—I want you to understand that Mr. Hadnot does not command this company.

Allen—We are going to stand where we are until we get United States troops or some assistance.

Nash—Then go in there and say to your people that I advise them to get out of there. I give you thirty minutes to remove your women and children.

I asked Mr. Nash if this statement was correct, and he replied that he did not remember the reference to Mr. Hadnot, but otherwise it was correct.

Upon asking Mr. Nash if he proposed prosecuting any further hostilities, he responded in effect that he did not, and would use his influence to prevent any violence by his followers.

I asked Mr. Nash if he was acting as sheriff by virtue of a commission from Governor Kellogg, to which he responded that he had not received his commission, but had seen a notice of his appointment to the position in the *New Orleans Republican*.

During our conversation, Mr. Nash stated that after the colored men got into the courthouse they displayed a white flag, that Messrs. Hadnot and Harris went to see what was wanted, and on approaching the building were shot.

This is denied by colored men. Mr. Hadnot was shot through the stomach from side to side, and Mr. Harris in the back under both shoulders.

T. W. DEKLYNE,

Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

